



Senator Feinstein "Disappointed" that Defense Department
Missed Perchlorate Deadline
May 3, 2004

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) has expressed her disappointment that the Department of Defense missed a deadline for issuing a report to Congress on the extent of perchlorate contamination of groundwater supplies in California and across the country.

The report was mandated in the FY '04 Military Construction Appropriations bill. Senator Feinstein is the ranking member on the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Senator Feinstein wrote: **"As you may know, the Fiscal Year 2004 Military Construction Appropriations Bill directed the Department to submit a report identifying the sources of perchlorate on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) properties and the plans to remediate perchlorate contamination on these sites by today. I have still not received such a report.**

I am deeply disappointed that the Department of Defense missed the April 30 deadline. Additionally, I am troubled by the fact that the Department has consistently avoided providing information to Congress about perchlorate contamination on Defense Department sites, and describing what, if anything, it has done to remediate the contamination.

I understand from my staff that you expect the report to be completed and sent to Congress by mid-May. I would appreciate you providing me with a date as to when I can expect to see a copy of that report.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to reviewing the report, and to working with the Department of Defense to make sure that perchlorate contamination is adequately addressed at all Defense Department installations."

Perchlorate is a chemical used in rocket fuel and explosives. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, perchlorate contamination has been found in 29 states, including more than 300 wells in California - most notably in eastern Sacramento County, Simi Valley, San Gabriel Valley, the Rialto-Colton Basin, water sources for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and in the Colorado River, which supplies water to Southern California.

###